



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

*SEPTEMBER 5, 2003*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3826**

### **BISHOP OPPOSES CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISE**

*Supported Effort to Vote on \$3,000 Increase*

**Washington, DC:** Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) announced his opposition to a pay raise for Members of Congress. The 2.2 percent hike raises Members' salaries by roughly \$3,000 to about \$158,000 for next year.

Under current law, members of the House and Senate receive an automatic pay raise. Bishop voted in favor of a procedural motion that would have forced a specific vote on the pay increase and would then have voted down the increase. However, the motion to the Treasury, Postal and General Government Appropriations bill was defeated yesterday on a vote of 240-173.

"With over 300,000 New Yorkers having lost their jobs since January, 2001 and our nation in a record deficit, this is not the time for Congress to raise its own salary," Bishop said. "When we are asking Americans to sacrifice, it is the responsibility of Congress to lead by example."

"At the very least, I believe individual Members of Congress owe it to their constituents to allow a straight up-or-down vote on their salaries," Bishop added. "I am very upset that vote will not occur."

# # #